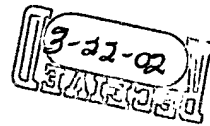


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PATENT
B208-346 DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kenichi Nagasawa, et al.
Serial No. : 09/437,694
For : SIGNAL RECORDING APPARATUS
Filed : November 10, 1999
Examiner : H. Nguyen
Art Unit : 2715

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

In response to the Office Action of October 23, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claim 31 as follows:

31 (Amended) A digital information coding apparatus, comprising:

- a) an input unit, arranged to selectively input a first parallel data of N bits representing a first digital information and second parallel data of N bits representing a second digital information, wherein a bit rate of the first digital information differs from a bit rate of the second digital information;

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on:

March 22, 2002

John J. Torrente

Signature

March 22, 2002

Date of Signature